Wyoming's Lab Loop

A Publication of the Wyoming Public Health Laboratory

Volume 9, Issue 2

Summer/Fall 2011

Wyoming's Lab Loop Goes Digital!

Our Lab Loop is taking the jump into the 21st Century! Our mailing list has expanded over the last few years and in order to cut expenses yet still deliver the news pertaining to State Lab issues and developments, delivery of The Loop goes directly to your email inbox.

As in the past, once The Loop is released for publication, you can find a link to it on the WPHL home page.

An electronic Loop will offer many other benefits besides saving printing costs and saving a few trees. It will also allow direct input and feedback from readers. Subscribers will have an opportunity to link directly to the Loop Staff and offer their invaluable insight. What are you looking for in newest training? What can we do better? Your input will serve to help deliver a better product.

Please enjoy the new format and the Summer/Fall issue of Wyoming's Laboratory Loop!

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Our New Buzz Word— Capabilities List

As of August 9, 2011, Preparedness Programs across the nation entered into a cooperative agreement with CDC to receive their next round of funding. The last six years provided guidance in the form of benchmarks, which had to be met in order to receive the funding. Wyoming's Preparedness Program achieved great strides during the last five years. We have seen an overall improvement in the Preparedness Goals: Prevent, Detect and Report, Investigate, Control, Recover, and Improve.

The new five-year agreement focuses on the CDC document Public Health Preparedness Capabilities: National Standards for State and Local Planning. This document contains a list of 15 capabilities, each associated with functions and tasks (to include performance measures) that assist our state in accomplishing the capabilities set forth in this document. These capabilities mirror the benchmarks from the past, yet move into the future by continuing efforts to improve these critical emergency preparedness capabilities.

(Continued pg. 2)

The Bioterrorism Response Lab has a CDC Inspection

The Wyoming Public Health Lab has nestled into their new facility at 208 South College Drive. We have been in our new facility since November 1, 2010. Well, just about everyone has been here since last November. The Bioterrorism Response Lab (BRL) has still been operating on the fifth floor of the Hathaway Building downtown and across the street from the State Capitol. Moving a select agent lab is not as easy as you think it would be!

According to Select Agent Rules, using a biosafety level three, (BSL 3) Select Agent Laboratory requires implementing proper security and safety measures before the laboratory is functional. The Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL) are the guidelines used to accomplish the level of safety and security needed in the BSL 3 lab.

Our plans consist of three main manuals. (Continued pg. 3)

Are You Registered on W.A.R.N.?

PG 4

Spooky Word Search

From local emergencies to national events - the one thing that always seems to need improvement is communication. Agencies small and large have taken great strides to improve the ability to communicate during crisis. Wyoming's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEPP) is no exception. The PHEPP in conjunction with the Hospital Preparedness Program jointly sponsor a project to create a single website for public health and medical emergency information dissemination. The Wyoming Alert and Response Network, or WARN, also serves emergency response coordination for state, county, local, and tribal entities WARN is a repository for important documents and emergency correspondence that can be safely shared with our partners across the state. It also is a portal to four important resources for preparedness: WY Health Alert Network, Volunteer Registry, Hospital Bed Tracking System, and WY-(Continued pg. 5) Train.

Our New Buzz Word Continued ...

Although many of the capabilities in-

tertwine, one capability is solely dedicated to the laboratory. Capability 12: Public Health Laboratory Testing - The ability to conduct rapid and conventional detection, characterization, confirmatory testing, data reporting, investigative support, and laboratory networking to address actual or potential exposure to all-hazards. Hazards include chemical, radiological, and biological agents in multiple matrices that many include clinical samples, food, and environmental samples (e.g., water, air and soil). Within this construct, supporting routine surveillance, including pre-event and post-exposure activities, is addressed.

This capability consists of the ability to perform the following functions:

Function 1: Manage Laboratory Activities

Function 2: Perform Sample Management

Function 3: Conduct Testing and Analysis for Routine and Surge Capacity

Function 4: Support Public Health Investigations

Function 5: Result Reports

These functions define work that is performed on a daily basis in laboratories across the nation. The details of these functions demand attention. Even though we do these things every day, emergency preparedness programs are now required to have written protocols for these functions and documentation that we are improving these functions through testing the protocols.

The following information highlights the two important capabilities that pertain to the sentinel clinical laboratories.

Function 1: Manage Laboratory Activities

Manage and coordinate communications and resource sharing with the jurisdiction's network of human, food, veterinary, and environmental testing laboratory efforts to respond to chemical, biological radiological, nuclear, explosive, and other public health threats.

This function will be measured through the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program's existing WARN system. Emergency messages will be blasted to laboratories and statistics will be compiled measuring the time it takes WY-LRN laboratories to acknowledge receipt of an urgent message. Benchmarks are developed to track how long it takes 50%, 90%, and 100% of labs to acknowledge receipt of the emergency message. Redundancy is built into the exercise not by only using the WARN, but using email as a way to communicate to the network when emergencies require immediate response. Please take the time to read the article about WARN, HAN, and the WY eRoll for more information.

Function 2: Perform Sample Management

Implement LRN-established protocols and procedures where available and applicable [and other mandatory protocols, such as those for the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)] for sample collection, handling, packaging, processing, transport, receipt, storage, retrieval, and disposal. There are three requirements within this function affecting sentinel laboratories:

Implementing LRN-established protocols and procedures require on-going training of the LRN Sentinel Lab's ability to rule out or refer suspicious cultures. The Bioterrorism Lab will continue to purchase the CAP-LPX, utilize site visits, and offer any additional pertinent training over the next five years and into the future to meet this requirement.

The ability to handle, package, and transport samples following IATA/DOT and laboratory-specific protocol is addressed at least every other year through the WY Preparedness Program sponsorship of the Packaging and Shipping of Infectious Substances course, which was held in August 2011 for sentinel laboratories. This course will continue to be offered every two years and every avenue will be explored to assist laboratorians who were not able to attend complete this mandatory training in other ways.

The Bioterrorism Response Lab tests and will continue to test shipping technique through the CAP-LPX. At this time, participation in the LPX shipping exercise is voluntary. In the future, specific labs who have not stepped forward to be tested will be asked to ship a Category A Substance using IATA guidelines to meet the requirements of this function.

The ability to maintain forensic chain-of-custody throughout the sample management process may not be completely familiar to laboratorians, but most laboratory techs are very familiar with chain-of-custody forms in regards to pre-employment urine collections.

(Continued pg. 3)

Forensic chain-of-custody is very similar and is a legal document required any time techs become involved in collection of samples that may become part of a criminal investigation, such as in the case of an intentional release, be it biological, chemical, etc.

As stated earlier, these things are everyday functions of laboratories. The Capabilities List lends itself to critical detail, comprehensive policies and procedures, and documentation to demonstrate the funding given to the Public Health Preparedness Program is being well used and is a much needed benefit for preparedness within the State of Wyoming.

If you have any questions or would like more information in regards to the new Capabilities List, please contact Shawna Dereemer at shawna.dereemer@wyo.gov.

Training Notes

The Shipping Infectious Substances course was held in August of 2011 at the new Combined Laboratory facility. Presented by Transportation Safety Institute (TSI) the course was well attended by 21 laboratorians from 13 facilities across the state of Wyoming.





(Above) Instructor, Eddie Scott, conveys the necessity of compliance with the 49CFR

(Left) Snap shot of some of the attendees who attended from all across the state.

Note from Gale-

Site visits are planned again for the warm months. Hoping to start in May, I plan to canvas the state to issue new LRN Certificates and a small workshop in a bag that will offer free CEU's.

If there is something specific you would like to see for a traveling workshop, let me know at

gale.stevens@wyo.gov And I will see what I can come up with!

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Spooky Word Search

The Biosafety Manual, which discusses safe entrance and exit procedures, universal precautions, use of biosafety cabinets and lab instruments, autoclaving, and personal protection equipment. The Biosecurity Manual includes our written security plans, how we track our select agents and who enters our lab, and procedures for reporting incidents. The Incident Response Plan includes plans for specific emergencies that may arise, be it natural disaster or manmade, and how the personnel will operate during emergencies. Even though we had these plans in place for our original BRL, the plans had to be rewritten for the new facility. The challenge was writing plans for a facility we had not worked in yet!

The staff wrote plans as the laboratory commissioning progressed. Once the official commissioning report was issued, the inspection could then move forward and our inspection was set for July 12, 2011. The biggest concern was something would be substandard in the construction of the facility, which could have been an expensive fix. The CDC inspectors felt the new facility was well constructed and met the requirements for a select agent facility. The departures from the rules required minor changes in the plans and have been rewritten to satisfy the Select Agent Program. The Wyoming Laboratory Response Network's Bioterrorism Laboratory finally completed all necessary documentation and has moved into its new facility as of October 26, 2011.

Functioning between two facilities has been quite a challenge.

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Spooky Word Search

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Halloween Pumpkin Zombie Ghost Candy Costume Darkness Bat Witch Scary October Skeleton Paint Decorations Black Cat Ghoul Demons Cemetery Tombstone Corpses Candles Impish Tricksters Treats Monsters Mask Party Scream Werewolves Vampires Mischief Horror Spirits Divination

Wyoming's Lab Loop

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Gale Stevens and BT Staff



Monsters
Vampires
(Back) Val O'Neill, Robin
Frankenstein
Leiske, Gale Stevens
(Seated) Shawna Dereemer
(Not Pictured) Carrie Dornak

Created with the help of Wordsheets - www.Qualint.com

Skull

Dracula

Lab Inspection Continued... Moving to the new facility has streamlined our duties and allows a much better situation for all involved across the state!

The new facility not only has state of the art security and air handling systems, but we have new capabilities to decontaminate large areas with a new Vaporized Hydrogen Peroxide system. The lab also has a new Unknown Accessioning area off the loading dock, which allows safe handling of environmental samples. We are very excited to move into our new lab.

If you haven't had the opportunity to tour this new facility, please know you are welcome to come by anytime and we will show you around. Just come to the front desk and page the BT Group. One of us will be up to offer you the New Lab Dog and Pony Show!

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Are You Registered on W.A.R.N.? (continued)





The Wyoming Health Alert Network (WyHAN) and Information Portal is a collaborative work environment where sensitive or confidential information may be securely shared with our public health partners and emergency responders. It also establishes and maintains partner alerting messaging via telephone or cell phone notification from the Health Alert Network, Hospital Bed Tracking and Volunteer Registry systems. In the Response Manager's contact directory, people are designated by functional role, not by name or title. Instead of having to remember hundreds of names, everchanging titles and fluctuating organizational structures, users can search for the right individuals to contact by other more intuitive means.



The Volunteer Registry, WYeRoll, provides a statewide web-based volunteer registry system for medical and non-medical volunteers. This system is a work in progress as volunteer groups and individuals register on the system on a daily basis.

Our intent is to register, notify, and inform individuals who are interested in volunteering their time and skills in the event of a public health or medical emergency. This site can also be used to register and notify other partners, including private industry in the event of an emergency. Registration takes approximately 15 - 20 minutes. Additional features of the site include volunteer group - specific web pages with news, announcements, and available resources and information.



The Wyoming Hospital Bed Tracking System is an easy-to-use system for tracking and managing hospitals' available resources, diversion status and capacity to respond to emergencies. Designed by hospital personnel and public health officials to be straightforward, this program is used to manage daily activity as well as for hospital capacity management when a public health or medical emergency occurs. This system also has the ability to provide multi-media notifications, utilizing email and text-to-voice translation, and ensures that realtime data gets to first responders inside and outside of the hospital. The Hospital Bed Tracking System enables each hospital to report available beds by type; current facility including diversion status; and report

number of ventilators and influenza patients.

The Wyoming Training finder Real-

WY *****TRNN

time Affiliate Integrated Network, or WY-TRAIN is also accessed through WARN. As part of our emergency preparedness efforts, WY-TRAIN fulfills training needs for health care workers and emergency responders across the nation. WYTRAIN is a premier learning resource for professionals who protect the public's health. A free service of the Public Health Foundation. www.wytrain.orq is part of the newly expanded Training finder Real-time Affiliate Integrated Network. Learners can use TRAIN to search or browse the nationwide database for on-site or distance learning courses. Learners can also sign up for emails about new courses, create a personal learning record of competency-based training, provide and view feedback about courses listed on the site, register online for many courses, and earn CEUs often at no cost. Check out WARN at warn.wyoming.gov



For more information about any of these services, please contact Paul Card, WyHAN, paul.card@wyo.gov, Angelyn Jones, WYeROLL, angelyn.jones@wyo.gov, Sheryl Roub, Tracking System and WARN, sheryl.roub@wyo.gov, and James Smith, WY-TRAIN, james.smith5@wyo.gov.

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What's Coming Up?

Event	Location	Date
Clinical Laboratory Collaborative Conference	Red Lion Inn—SE Denver Colorado	April 10—11, 2012
American Society for Microbiology	San Francisco, California	June 16—19, 2012
ASCLS Annual Meeting & Exposition	Los Angeles, California	July 17—21, 2012

Clinical Laboratory Collaborative Conference Website

http://www.clcconline.org/wp/

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